

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

Thank you for your leadership to secure funding for the Urban Indian Health Program of the Indian Health Service (IHS). As you work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to request highest possible funding for the Urban Indian Health Program (UIHP) and for Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TEC).

The Committee has made significant increases in funding to the urban Indian health program to help address pay costs, inflation, and population growth in the last several appropriations cycles. This includes an increase to \$90.4 million for the UIHP and an increase to \$34 million for TECs in FY 2023. The funding increases were critical to ensure that urban Indian organizations (UIO) have the capacity and resources to provide services. This year, we again request the highest possible funding level for both urban Indian health and for Tribal Epidemiology Centers.

UIHPs serve our communities by providing culturally attuned health care and human services, conducting data research, and collaborating with tribal, community, and federal partners. As this Subcommittee knows well, the UIHP has traditionally received less than one percent of IHS appropriations to provide a variety of health care and medical services to the 76% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population that live in urban areas. The highest possible funding level will allow the UIHP to adequately provide health care services to tribal citizens in our communities.

Tribal Epidemiology Centers are another vital program within IHS. TECs conduct research used to identify the root causes of health disparities and improve data-driven health care decision making in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. They play a critical role in providing disease surveillance and technical assistance to tribal and urban Indian organizations. TECs need continued investment in order to maintain their success and un-replicated services. We are grateful for the much-needed increase in FY 2023; however, we still have a long way to go to build up research capabilities in tribal communities. In the FY 2024 appropriations bill, we request highest possible funding for the Tribal Epidemiology Centers program. This funding

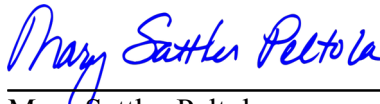
level would ensure TECs can conduct epidemiology and public health functions critical to the delivery of health care services for tribal and urban Indian communities.

Increased funding for UIHPs and TECs is critical to strengthening our public health and primary care system. We appreciate your consideration of our request for highest possible funding for the Urban Indian Health Program and Tribal Epidemiology Centers.

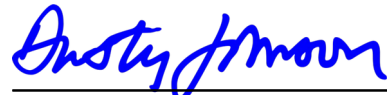
Sincerely,



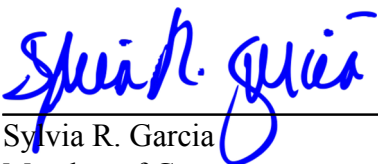
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



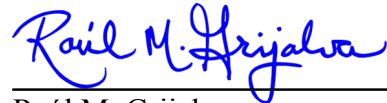
Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



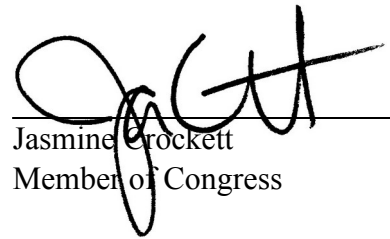
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



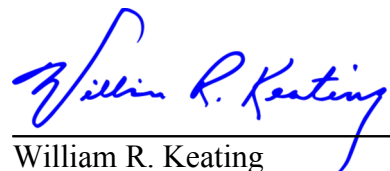
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



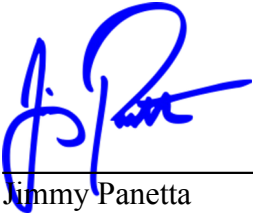
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
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Jimmy Panetta
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
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